

Media Release/Alert

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Asbestos disease support coming to Darwin

The Asbestos Disease Support Society (ADSS) will for the first time be visiting Darwin to meet people who suffer from an asbestos-related disease to offer support and advice.

The purpose of the June 23 visit by the ADSS team of dedicated and caring professionals is to show sufferers, their families and carers they are not alone and alleviate any feelings of isolation they may have as a result of their or their loved one's illness.

Based in Brisbane, ADSS looks after the interests of people affected by or who have been in contact with asbestos in both their professional and private lives. They service people living in Queensland, the Northern Territory and northern New South Wales.

ADSS is reaching out to Territorians who suffer from diseases they have contracted from working with or otherwise handling asbestos. They also want to meet their carers, families and friends. As part of this commitment, a team of ADSS specialists will host a free morning tea in Darwin on **Friday, June 23, 2017**, to meet with affected locals and set up a support network within the community.

ADSS Chief Executive Officer Amanda Richards said it was important to let people affected by asbestos diseases know there were other people living in their communities who were going through the same issues.

"This is our first visit to Darwin and the Northern Territory and we believe there may be many people in the community who could use our help and advice," she said. "There is a general feeling among people who have respiratory disease arising from asbestos that they are isolated and alone.

"They don't know that there are others in their community who are going through or have been through the exact experiences they are dealing with.

"They could be fellow sufferers; the spouses of current sufferers or those who have passed away; or people who have helped others who have had the disease. We want to bring them together. We want to let them know they are not alone."

ADSS will be hosting the free public morning tea at the **Palmerston Sports Club, Maluka Street, Gunn, between 10am and 11.30am on Friday, June 23**. A team of support staff, including a social worker and a lawyer with asbestos-related diseases experience, will be at the morning tea to advise sufferers and help people navigate government and other support services.

Sufferers, carers, families, friends or anyone with an interest in helping people live with asbestos diseases are welcome to attend. To RSVP or for more information, call ADSS on 1800 776 412.